



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/022,557	12/14/2001	John R. Klug	5814.04	8788

20686 7590 10/04/2004

DORSEY & WHITNEY, LLP
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT
370 SEVENTEENTH STREET
SUITE 4700
DENVER, CO 80202-5647

EXAMINER

CHOULES, JACK M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2177

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2004

12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/022,557

Applicant(s)

KLUG, JOHN R.

Examiner

Jack M Choules

Art Unit

2177

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7 IDS's 11 pages.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 2177

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-31 are presented for examination.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statements (IDS's) received by the office on (1) 14 December 2001, (2) 10 October 2002, (3) 4 April 2003, (4) 6 August 2003, (5) 24 October 2003, (6) 11 May 2004, and (7) 27 August 2004 in this application prior to the first action a present in the IFW of the application. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, these information disclosure statements have been considered by the examiner. An initialed Copy should be attached to this action.

Double Patenting

3. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

4. Claims 1-31 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1-35 of U.S. Patent No. 6,411,965 B2. Although the

Art Unit: 2177

conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because claims 1-6 and 26-31 are broader than claims in the patent with the exception that the patent details processors displays and memory where the current application details the use of personal computers personal computers are well known devices containing processors displays and memory it would be obvious to use personal computers as they are widely available and relatively economical. Claims 7-25 refer to constructs and connections in a digital network that were common in the art and would be obvious to use where it is desired to connect more than two computers.

5. Claims 1-31 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,320. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because personal computers comprise a processor and ports especially when interconnected as in claim 1 of the patent. Thus here also the claims of the application are broader than those of the patent and thus subsume the claims of the patent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Art Unit: 2177

7. Claims 22-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

8. Claim 22 recites the limitation "the interconnecting means" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The lack of antecedent basis results as the claim depends on claim 1, by changing the dependency for example to claim 19 the antecedent basis of claim 22 would be satisfied.

9. Claims 23-29 are dependent on claim 22 and thus incorporate the same lack of antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sarin et al. in "Computer-based Real Time Conferencing Systems" as part of a text by edited by Grief in Computer-supported Cooperative Work: A Book of Readings. Note: applicant as part of an information disclosure statement provided the text and article.

12. As to claims 1-6, 30 and 31, Sarin teaches a data processing system comprising: "a host computer" (page 410, first full paragraph); "a interconnection means" (page 411, figure 15.3(a))

Art Unit: 2177

and 15.3 (b)), "receiving an input..." (page 410, second full paragraph through page 412 last full paragraph) the fact real-time is specified shows that updates to displays are received

"substantially contemporaneously with the execution of the edits." and "multi-task" (page 410, first full paragraph) a processor capable or being time-shared is capable of being multitasked.

13. In his main embodiment Sarin detailed work stations rather than personal computers, however, Sarin also described systems that had successfully provided real time conferencing (page 398, last full paragraph) and talks about using personal computers connected by telephone lines (page 418 third full paragraph).

14. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the DP art at the time of the applicant's invention to combine the personal computers and with the system described by Sarin because Sarin suggested in and they are readily available and comparatively economical system reducing overall cost.

15. As to claims 7 and 8, Sarin et al. does not directly detail "analog networks" or "modems". However Sarin describes a previous system which included telephone links between two PC's and it is implicit that these phone lines are used through modems (see page 398 last full paragraph) further he suggests that under some situations it would be advantageous to implement systems such as he describes on personal computers communicating over a telephone line (page 418 third full paragraph). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the applicant's invention to use analog networks and modems in Sarin system because doing so would allow lower cost more easily implemented interfaces to computers that are a location that is remote from the processor and any digital network it might be on system improving the versatility of the DP system.

Art Unit: 2177

16. As to claims 9, Sarin further describes a system including "digital networks" (page 417, third full paragraph).

17. As to claims 10-25, Sarin does not detail a hub, switch, bridge, or gateway, or sever but these are all common digital network devices for connecting digital networks or connecting computers to a digital network. It would be obvious to allow one or more of these devices because it would allow flexibility in connecting and adding to a digital network facilitating the addition of more user devices.

18. As to claims 26-29, Sarin further describes a system with "graphics" and "text" (page 411, figure 15.3(a)).

Conclusion

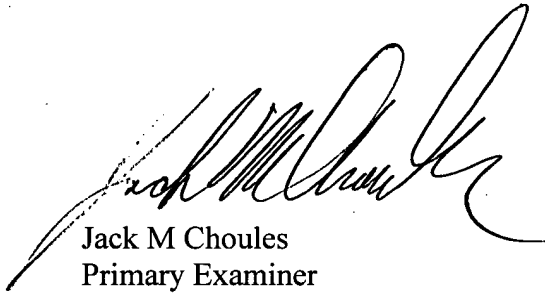
19. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. There is much art that appears to be pertinent to the invention in applicant's disclosures.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jack M Choules whose telephone number is (703) 305-9840; on 21 October 2004 it will change to (571) 272-4109. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2177

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jack M Choules
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2177

29 September 2004